

MCC and the Millennium Development Goals

In September of 2000, the United States committed to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which contains time-bound goals for reducing poverty and hunger, strengthening access to education, and improving health, including combating major diseases. These Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are benchmarks to measure progress on development. The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) plays a critical role in the U.S. Government's approach to assisting countries in their efforts to achieve the MDGs and improve the lives of their people.

MCC's Role

MCC recognizes that MDGs are useful and important targets for many partner countries as part of their overall strategy to achieve their own development priorities. MCC supports partner countries in these efforts by:

- ★ *Fostering economic growth.* MCC's core mandate is to reduce poverty in the world's poorest countries through sustainable economic growth. To halve the proportion of people with income under \$1 per day by 2015, economic growth is essential. Since its inception in 2004, MCC has committed over \$5.5 billion to assist this effort.
- ★ *Rewarding progress toward the MDGs.* MCC works with countries that perform relatively well in terms of good governance, economic freedom and investing in people. In doing so, MCC selection criteria give countries an incentive to address MDGs. For example, MCC indicators encourage countries to improve girls' primary school completion rates, immunization rates, incidence of child mortality, access to water and sanitation, and natural resource management.
- ★ *Investing in country priorities.* Partner country governments propose, in consultation with their citizens, their own priority uses for MCC funding and often decide to use MCC assistance to directly address

"We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty...We resolve therefore to create an environment— at the national and global levels alike— which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty."

*—Millennium Declaration,
September 25, 2000*

Millennium Development Goals. At the request of eligible countries, MCC is investing in water and sanitation, primary education, immunization, health care infrastructure, and land titling, which gives farmers an incentive to improve rather than abandon currently cultivated land for new slash-and-burn fields. MCC investment in infrastructure and income generating activities also has important, indirect effects on achieving the MDGs. Roads, for example, not only enable crops to get to markets but provide better access to schools and health facilities.

Examples of MCC Investments Related to MDGs

“To halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world’s people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger”



In Ghana, MCC assistance is helping farmers improve productivity of staple and commercial crops through training, improved irrigation, land tenure, access to credit, transportation, cold storage, an community services. By the end of the five-year program, the compact is expected to help directly alleviate the poverty of over 230,000 Ghanaians, raising average daily crop income per person by 64% to over \$1 per day.

“By the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water”



In Mozambique, MCC assistance is providing access to safe, reliable water and sanitation services to increase productivity and reduce water-borne diseases to benefit some 1.9 million people by 2015. The project will supply water and sanitation services to six cities and water supply to two mid-sized towns and 600 rural water points in the four most northern and poorest provinces of Mozambique.

“To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education”



Burkina Faso used \$13 million in MCC Threshold assistance to improve its performance on MCC’s “Girls’ Primary Education Completion Rates” indicator resulting in 323 teachers holding classes for 18, 629 students in 132 new “girl-friendly” schools.

“By the same date, to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates”



In Lesotho, MCC is providing \$122 million to rehabilitate health clinics, build diagnostic facilities and train nurses in order to improve service quality and availability for health center clients, including the 90 percent of pregnant women who seek prenatal care; the more than 90 percent of infants and young children immunized against childhood infectious diseases; the 9,000 TB patients treated at the health centers each year; and the 34,000 persons expected to have anti-retroviral therapy (ART services during the life of the Compact.

“To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria, and other major diseases that afflict humanity.”



In Indonesia, MCC is helping fund the government’s program to immunize at least 80 percent of children under the age of one for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis and 90 percent of children for measles in all 222 districts and 90 percent of villages.



In Cape Verde (and similarly in other countries with large infrastructure projects), MCC assistance helped local officials develop an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign for contractors. The program gives construction workers and local community members access to information, free, voluntary HIV/AIDS testing, and follow-up counseling.